National Priorities List

Superfund hazardous waste site listed under the
Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act (CERCLA) as amended in 1986

CARRIER AIR CONDITIONING CO.
Collierville, Tennessee

Carrier Air Conditioning Co. of United Technologies manufactures air conditioners on approximately 145 acres in Collierville, Shelby County, Tennessee. Three releases of trichloroethylene (TCE) to the environment have been documented. In 1978, a filter cover failed on a vapor degreaser, spilling 2,000 to 5,000 gallons of TCE. According to Carrier, the local fire department washed this material into Nonconnah Creek. Soil samples collected at the spill site by the State in April 1986 contained TCE.

Starting in about 1972, Carrier operated an unlined, 200-cubic-foot lagoon for storage of TCE-contaminated paint sludges. Presumably it leaked TCE. In November 1980, Carrier removed wastes and soil from the lagoon and sent them to an EPA-regulated hazardous waste facility.

A third release occurred in January 1985. Following a period of heavy rainfall, an unknown volume of TCE leaked from underground pipes. The company recovered 542 gallons of TCE. As a result of this spill, wells were installed at the facility to monitor the Memphis Sands Aquifer. TCE was detected in several of these wells in January 1986.

The Carrier facility is located within 2,000 feet of Water Plant wells #2 of the City of Collierville. Analyses conducted in July 1986 by the Tennessee Department of Health and Environment found that the west well for Water Plant #2 was contaminated with low levels of TCE. Subsequently, Carrier sampled both wells at Water Plant #2, both wells at Water Plant #1 (approximately 15 miles east of Carrier), and the treated water from both plants. Low levels of TCE were found in both wells at Water Plant #2. Carrier continues to monitor public and private wells in the area. An estimated 12,800 people obtain drinking water from wells in the Memphis Sands Aquifer within 3 miles of the site.

This facility obtained Interim Status under Subtitle C of the Resource Conservation and Recovery Act (RCRA) when it filed a Notification of Hazardous Waste Activity and Part A of a permit application to treat, store, or dispose of hazardous waste. Later, it withdrew its Part A and converted to generator-only status with EPA or State approval. Hence, it satisfies a component of EPA's NPL/RCRA policy.

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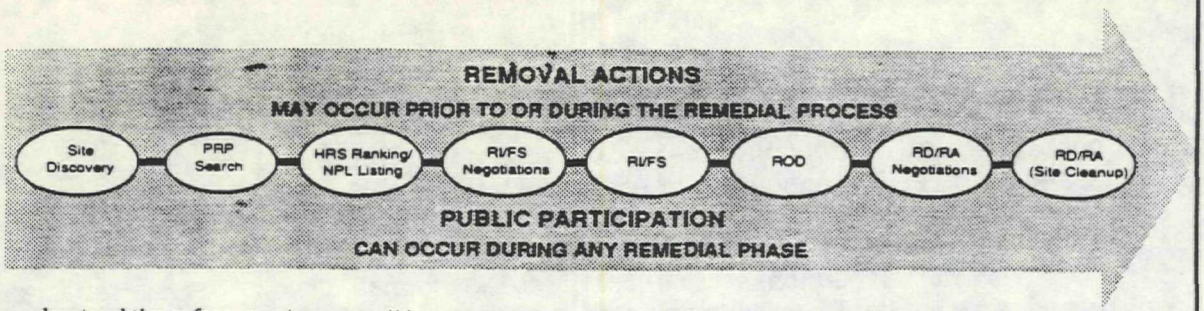
- OVER -

Site: Carver
Break:
Other:

SUPERFUND REMEDIAL/ENFORCEMENT PROCESS



To understand the enforcement process, it is necessary to understand the Superfund remedial process, which happens concurrently. Under the remedial program, EPA takes long-term cleanup actions to stop or substantially reduce releases or threats of releases of hazardous substances that are serious but not immediately life-threatening. Removal actions, short-term, immediate actions intended to stabilize or clean up a hazardous incident or site that poses a threat to human health or welfare or the environment, may be taken at any point in the remedial process.

The remedial process begins with a preliminary assessment/site inspection (PA/SI). This usually is conducted by the State, to determine whether the site poses a significant enough potential hazard to warrant further study and investigation.

The site is then ranked using the Hazard Ranking System (HRS), a numerical ranking system used to identify the site's potential hazard to the environment and public health. Sites assigned an HRS score of 28.5 or above are added to the National Priorities List (NPL).

Next, a remedial investigation (RI) is conducted to assess the extent and nature of the contamination and the potential risks. In conjunction with the RI, a feasibility study (FS) is prepared to examine and evaluate various remedial alternatives.

Following a public comment period on EPA's proposed plan and the draft FS report, EPA chooses a specific cleanup plan and outlines the chosen remedy in the Record of Decision (ROD).

Once the remedial design (RD) (which includes engineering plans and specifications) is completed, the actual site cleanup, or remedial action (RA), can begin. After RD/RA activities have been completed, the site is monitored to ensure the effectiveness of the cleanup. Certain measures require ongoing operation or periodic maintenance. This is called the operation and maintenance phase.

Releasable Urshula Swann
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GLOSSARY

Ground Water - Water found beneath the earth's surface that fills pores between materials such as sand, soil, or gravel.

Potentially Responsible Party (PRP) - Any individual(s) or company(s), such as owners, operators, transporters, or generators, potentially responsible for, or contributing to, the contamination problems at a Superfund site. Whenever possible, EPA requires the PRPs, through administrative and legal actions, to clean up Superfund hazardous waste sites.

Record of Decision (ROD) - A public document which explains which cleanup alternative(s) will be used at National Priorities List sites. The record of decision is based on information and technical analysis generated during the remedial investigation/feasibility study and consideration of public comments or community concerns.

Community Relations Plan (CRP) - Formal plan for EPA community relations activities at a Superfund site.

Heavy Metals - A group of inorganic elements including lead, chromium, cadmium, and cobalt that can be toxic at relatively low concentrations.

National Priorities List (NPL) - EPA's list of the most serious uncontrolled or abandoned hazardous waste sites identified for possible long-term remedial response using money from Superfund. The list is based primarily on the score a site received on the Hazard Ranking System (HRS). EPA is required to update the NPL at least once a year.

Hazard Ranking System (HRS) - A scoring system used to evaluate potential relative risks to public health and the environment from releases or threatened releases of hazardous substances. EPA and States use the HRS to calculate a site score, from 0 to 100, based on the actual or potential release of hazardous substances through the air, surface water, or ground water to affect people. This score is the primary factor used to decide if a hazardous waste site should be placed on the National Priorities List.